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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 26, 2007

TO: Intermediate and Local School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Mike Flanagan,  Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Michigan's Impact on the Reauthorization of the Federal Elementary
and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)/No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

As the Congress is poised to reauthorize ESEA/NCLB this fall, Michigan is in a strategic position to have a significant impact on improving and finetuning this far-reaching legislation. Our very own Congressman Dale E. Kildee (D-Flint) is the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, and we have three members on the full House Committee on Education and Labor: Congressman Pete Hoekstra (R-Holland), Congressman Vern Ehlers (R-Grand Rapids), and Congressman Tim Walberg (R-Tipton).

The House Committee recently reached out to the education community with staff bill drafts for the reauthorization and requested our input. I am acutely aware of the challenges local and intermediate school districts have faced in implementing this law, and thus I was compelled on your behalf to share some thoughts with the Committee. We've taken your concerns into consideration in this collaborative effort. I wanted you also to have the benefit of my two submissions in the form of letters (attached) to Committee Chairman Congressman George Miller (D-California) and Members of the Committee, one solely on Title I, and the other on Titles II-IX.

Since I submitted these letters by the Committee's deadlines of September 5 and 14, I have learned that the Committee is still seeking more input from the field. Because federal education law reauthorization only occurs every five years, I strongly encourage you to weigh in and directly submit your thoughts, too. The bill drafts may be accessed on the committee's website at <http://edlabor.house.gov/micro/nclb.shtml>. Then, your comments should be sent to ESEA.Comments@mail.house.gov. It would be advisable to copy your own Member of Congress on your submission. Attached, to assist you, is a list of the Michigan Congressional Delegation and their contact information. The current, most effective method to communicate with Congressional Offices is by way of the education legislative assistants' email.

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This presents us with a special opportunity. It is my hope that you will avail yourself of it to be a part of the process to improve and finetune ESEA/NCLB in a constructive way. It would be advisable to send your comments as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about this process, or desire more background, please contact Ms. Roberta E. Stanley, Director of Administrative Law and Federal Relations, MDE, at stanleyr@michigan.gov.